

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is outrageous. It is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. If Sinclair chooses to air an anti-Kerry documentary, whether calling it "news" or not, then in the interest of balanced coverage, it needs to provide equal airtime to an opposing viewpoint(s), e.g., Fahrenheit 9/11.

It's the FCC's job to make sure that the airwaves are allocated in a way that provides balanced political coverage. This is not a case of prior restraint. This is a case of equal time.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.